



Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009

Summary

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Members in Attendance (21):

Jean Ajamie (Department of Education)
David Barnhouse (Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families – Acting Executive Director)
Tom Betlach (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)
Karen Bulkeley on behalf of Jakki Hillis (Department of Economic Security)
Scott Cocuzza (Business Leader)
Anthony Coulson (Drug Enforcement Administration)
David Felix (Department of Public Safety)
Kathy Kitcheyan (San Carlos Apache Tribe)
Beth Kohler Lazare (Office of Governor Janice Brewer)
Melissa Lempke (Governor's Office/Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Duce Minor (Parker Area Alliance for Community Empowerment, Inc. PAACE)
Ralph Ogden (Yuma County Sheriff)
Jerry Oliver (Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control)
Gerald Richard in for Jane Irvine (Attorney General's Office)
Charles Ryan (Arizona Department of Corrections)
Mary Specio-Boyer (COPE Behavioral Services, Inc.)
Kevin Tyne (Office of Governor Janice Brewer)
Dr. Kellie Warren (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Kathy Waters on behalf of Dave Byers (Administrative Office of the Courts)
Dr. Rodgers Wilson on behalf of Dr. Laura Nelson (Department of Health Services)
Karen Ziegler (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Members Absent (3):

Richard Fimbres (Governor's Office of Highway Safety)
Major Scott Hadley (Arizona National Guard)
Jeff Sanders (Community Member)

Public (13):

Angela Baldasare (Pima Prevention Partnership)
Jason Blackstock (Pima Prevention Partnership)
Jenny Cilwa (Women in New Recovery)
Margie Emmermann (Arizona-Mexico Commission)
David Gallagher (AATP)
Emily Jenkins (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)
Rich Rosky (Arizona HIDTA)
Stephanie Siete (Community Bridges)
Gaby Silva (Arizona-Mexico Commission)
Phil Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)



Linda Weinberg (Cenpatico Behavioral Health)
Brian Wilcox (Arizona Department of Public Safety)
Wendy Wolfersteig (ASU)

Call to Order

Mr. Kevin Tyne welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Mr. Tyne asked everyone to introduce him or herself. Mr. Tyne provided an overview of the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Tyne referred members to the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Gerard Richard moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Tom Betlach seconded the motion and it was carried with no objections.

Review of Sub-Committees and Membership

The Chair noted that the sub-committees are an essential to the work of ASAP. He noted that ASAP members had been named as chairs of several subcommittees to elevate their work, and also commented that each subcommittee would be asked to report out on its outcomes and actions at all future meetings.

Ms. Morgan Hester referred members to the ASAP one pager in their packets, noting that the Community Advisory Board as shown on the organizational chart has been established and will be co-chaired by Ms. Mary Specio-Boyer and Mr. Duce Minor. The Board will consist of members of community substance abuse coalitions around the state with the goal of representation from all 15 counties in Arizona.

Ms. Hester also noted the changes in subcommittee chairmanship, recognizing former chairs Ms. Barbara LaWall (Methamphetamine Task Force), Ms. Lisa Shumaker (Underage Drinking Prevention Committee), and Ms. Linda Weinberg (Workforce Development Committee).

Mr. Betlach noted that a member listed on the Co-Occurring Policy Advisory Team roster is no longer with AHCCCS.

A motion to approve all membership roster changes was passed.

Drug Threat and Border Security

Mr. Anthony Coulson (DEA) provided an overview of Arizona's drug threat and border security. Mr. Coulson provided a visual representing the different trafficking corridors, noting critical areas impacting Arizona. He provided information on Arizona drug seizures, stating that they have seen a plateau with cocaine, a significant increase in heroin, and a substantial amount of marijuana. Mr. Coulson noted that this data is important in informing treatment providers on the



trends that will come their way. In regards to border violence, he stated that the level of violence has tapered down compared the level it was in winter 2008.

Mr. Coulson provided final seizure numbers for 2008, stating that record level heroin, cocaine, and meth were seized in the Yuma area. He noted that marijuana is the most profitable drug for cartels, fueling the trend. He relayed that amount of meth seized represents a returning trend, noting the importance that Arizona continues to work hard to address meth use. Mr. Coulson relayed specifics as to the record amounts of heroin seized, representing an emerging threat. Compared to other states, Arizona is seizing 40 percent of the heroin along the border.

Mr. Coulson reiterated that heroin is here as a threat and meth is on the increase.

Mr. Copple inquired as to whether heroin use is reflected in treatment data. Dr. Kellie Warren (ADJC) noted that marijuana is the most common drug of choice seen among the population in ADJC facilities, stating that the information provided today is helpful in informing and allowing providers to prepare. Mr. Coulson noted that hospital admission information is beginning to reflect.

A member of the public stated that in the East Valley heroin is an absolute issue, along with marijuana. Ms. Specio-Boyer also stated that it is important to focus in on priorities, such as prescription drug abuse. Dr. Rodgers Wilson followed up in providing information on prescription drug abuse related initiatives out of DHS.

A public representative from Community Bridges noted that they have opened an Opioid Specific facility for 18- 24 year olds. She also relayed the connection between prescription drug abuse of opioids and heroin.

Substance Abuse Data and Findings

Mr. Phillip Stevenson (ACJC) provided an overview of the work of the Epidemiology Work Group over the years. Mr. Stevenson also discussed the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) which was last administered to eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students in 2008. The AYS collects self-reported data on substance use from Arizona students. The AYS asks for age of initiation for many drugs, but age of initiation is not asked for heroin/opioids.

Mr. Stevenson noted a slight uptick in the use of LSD and Ecstasy. He noted that should the AYS 2010 be conducted, the data may reflect an increase in reported heroin in line with increased seizures. In responding to a question, Mr. Stevenson stated that the administration of the AYS included public schools on Indian Reservations, but does not include Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

Mr. Stevenson relayed that Arizona trends are for the most part reflective of the drug use trends at the national level. He provided data on lifetime underage drinking by county for 2006 and 2008. He highlighted that from county to county drug problems are different, reinforcing the importance of the emergence of the Community Advisory Board that can bring a voice to



community issues and trends at ASAP. He stated that underage drinking is down in all counties except Navajo, Greenlee and Cochise.

Mr. Stevenson provided information regarding lifetime meth use by county for 2006 and 2008, noting significant reductions in youth use of meth; however, he cautioned members on the importance of continuing to be diligent in addressing meth.

Mr. Stevenson provided information on lifetime prescription drug abuse by county for 2006 and 2008, stating that there was an increase in every county. He noted a change in the way the question regarding prescription drug use was asked in the 2008 administration. Mr. Stevenson discussed the relationship between lifetime prescription drug abuse and risk and protective factors, demonstrating clear illustrations of the effective use of a risk and protective factor prevention model. He also provided information on youth use of alcohol and the relationship to other substance use and anti-social behavior, stating that those with an increase in lifetime alcohol use increased likelihood in anti-social behavior.

Mr. Minor inquired as to whether the data are demonstrating an overall improvement in reducing substance abuse among youth or if we are just changing the drugs being used. This led to a broader discussion of "What do we need to do to develop 'drug resistant kids'." Mr. Stevenson is conducting research on those risk and protective factors that are predictive of certain behaviors and will follow up with the group.

Mr. Stevenson relayed that Arizona has data for those involved in justice system, emergency room data, and those involved in treatment. He noted that the Epidemiology Work Group in coordination with the Division for Substance Abuse Policy is looking to leverage existing resources and a data collection mechanism already in use to obtain adult substance abuse prevalence data which had been lacking in the state. This will be done by adding questions to the Arizona Health Survey, administered by St. Luke's Health Initiative that will speak to adult prevalence as a whole.

Mr. Stevenson referred members to the one page overview document on the *The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona*. He stated that in addressing fragmented data collection silos, the Epidemiology Work Group produces this annual report, bringing researchers and data analysts together to paint a more comprehensive picture of substance abuse in the state. Referring to specific data, he called attention to the AYS data stating that 1 in 5 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported binge drinking in the previous two weeks. He noted that 1 of every 8 youth entering the ADJC system is alcohol dependent and 34.9 percent of youth committed in 2008 reported daily use of meth prior to commitment to ADJC. Mr. Stevenson noted that data suggested that in Maricopa County, data reflects that percent of those needing services and not receiving the services.

In speaking to emerging issues, Mr. Stevenson noted prescription drug abuse and inhalant abuse. Ms. Jean Ajamie (Department of Education) noted that lifetime substance use among students shows a decline, and the explanation could be that the students have left the school system. Mr. Stevenson noted the importance of the question and stated that the Epidemiology Work Group



would look into it.

Ms. Kathy Kitcheyan asked how agencies are representing and coordinating services with the 22 Tribal Nations and noted the importance of coordinating to address the important issues. Mr. Stevenson and Ms. Jeanne Blackburn (DSAP) noted an ITCA initiative. Ms. Melissa Lempke (DSAP) stated that she could connect Ms. Kitcheyan with DSAP staff to discuss, and Dr. Rodgers Wilson noted that he would be glad to connect her with DHS.

Dr. Wilson noted that in the Navajo Nation youth are drinking “ocean water,” a mixture of the alcohol distilled from products like hairspray and mixed with kool-aid. He mentioned that it may be important to rephrase the AYS questions to include drinking of any product containing alcohol.

Review of 2008 Strategic Focus Area Outcomes

Mr. Copple provided a brief overview of the 2008 Strategic Focus Areas and provided examples of key outcomes.

The four Strategic Focus Areas are substance abuse and child welfare, data driven decisions and policy making, law enforcement and drug trafficking and emerging trends and the state’s capacity to respond. Mr. Copple relayed the benefit of a data driven process to inform policy, decision making, and program design.

Discussion of 2009 Strategic Focus Areas

Mr. Tyne noted to members that in considering 2009 Strategic Focus Areas the difficult economic situation is an important consideration. Mr. Copple asked members whether they were comfortable in continuing to move forward on the four Strategic Focus Areas previously named for 2009. The group was in general agreement that ASAP should continue in moving forward with the prescription drug abuse Strategic Focus Area.

There were member comments on the importance of addressing marijuana abuse. Mr. Jerry Oliver noted his support in keeping underage drinking as a priority and perhaps taking a different turn in addressing it.

Ms. Ajamie noted that from a prevention standpoint it is important to continue to be comprehensive in addressing all substances, but specific intervention strategies may be different.

Mr. Copple noted the consideration of what is it that we do to build a “drug resistant kid.” Mr. Tyne noted that we should look at collaborating and focusing on what is already out there in prevention. Ms. Specio-Boyer highlighted the possibility of bringing out the strength of communities and the ability to develop a knowledge base for them to call upon. Mr. Copple also mentioned the importance of the role of the family. Dr. Warren noted that it is important to look at socio-economic status and disproportionate representation. A need for prevention was noted.



Ms. Hester noted that she would be glad to coordinate a workgroup and bring prevention representatives together to gather ideas and get a better understanding of what state agencies can do to support communities. She also referred members to a document in their packets regarding the Arizona Tribal Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Training Workshop that was held in January. In reference to DEC Mr. Coulson stated that DEC has been in law enforcement arena, but that it should be in the public health arena. Mr. Copple noted that it is odd that most DEC funding comes out of the U.S. Department of Justice and not the Department of Health and Human Services, but that the approach should be collaborative. Ms. Ziegler noted concern that if DEC gets folded under the law enforcement Strategic Focus Area, it may not get the attention it deserves. Mr. Coulson noted it is a broad issue, and Mr. Rich Rosky (public member) agreed that law enforcement is a small component of a DEC program and that community coalitions, health services, social services, and others are also important. Ms. Specio-Boyer noted the importance of igniting the initiative at the community level, and wrap it into the Community Advisory Board. She discussed the need to utilize the Community Advisory Board to identify what is happening in communities and then add any resources uncovered to a list that could be posted on the internet. These resources may offset the limitations in services posed by recent budget cuts, and may reveal innovative programs from various community or faith groups. It would not mean that the state would endorse these groups but they could just be a repository of information available to our communities. There was general consensus to keep DEC as a Strategic Focus Area.

Ms. Hester noted that the proposed media/marketing campaigns Strategic Focus Area could be adapted to cover prevention and how to best impact and provide resources to communities.

Mr. Copple asked whether or not heroin should fall under emerging trends or whether it should be a Strategic Focus Area. It was relayed that spotlight report could be developed from the Emerging Issues Sub-Committee.

Dr. Warren asked whether or not there is an opportunity to combine some of the focus areas. Mr. Copple noted that the Epidemiology Work Group could look at individual substances. He also noted that underage drinking is so pervasive that it should remain its own Focus Area.

Ms. Kathy Waters (Administrative Office of the Courts) noted that we shouldn't lose sight of the fact the youthful population over 21 is still an important priority regarding alcohol abuse. Lisa Shumaker (member of the public) suggested that the Underage Drinking Committee would enjoy the opportunity to present on their outcomes and report.

Other Items and Upcoming Events

Morgan Hester referred to other documents in member's packets. She noted that she would follow-up with members to coordinate a prevention/community resources work group meeting and also announced the upcoming 4th Annual Arizona Substance Abuse Conference, to be held April 29- 30, 2009.



Call to the Public

Mr. Tyne made a call to the public.

Ms. Kitcheyan announced that SAMHSA is coming to San Carlos Apache on April 21-22 and invited members to attend.

Ms. Ziegler noted the vast amount of federal dollars to be made available through the Recovery Act and noted that she is working with law enforcement agencies to try to coordinate projects to be submitted to for funding. Although there is much enforcement funding, ASAP will need to look at how dollars could ultimately impact other areas such as treatment.

Adjourn

Mr. Tyne noted that the next meeting will be held on May 21, 2009 and encouraged members to continue moving forward with the work of ASAP between meetings. Mr. Tyne adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.